Volume 30, No. 8, August 1998

carolina country

the monthly magazine of north carolina's electric cooperatives

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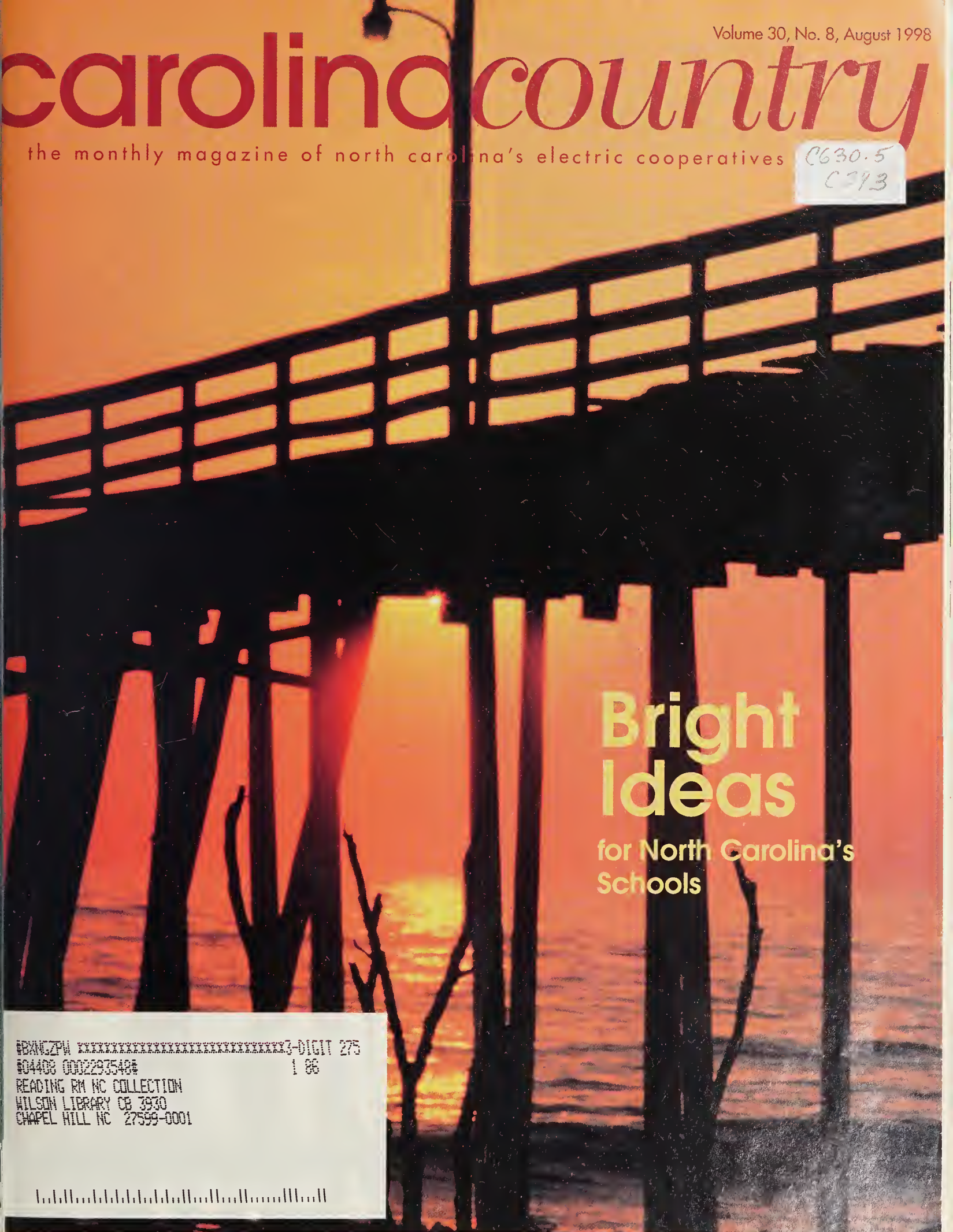

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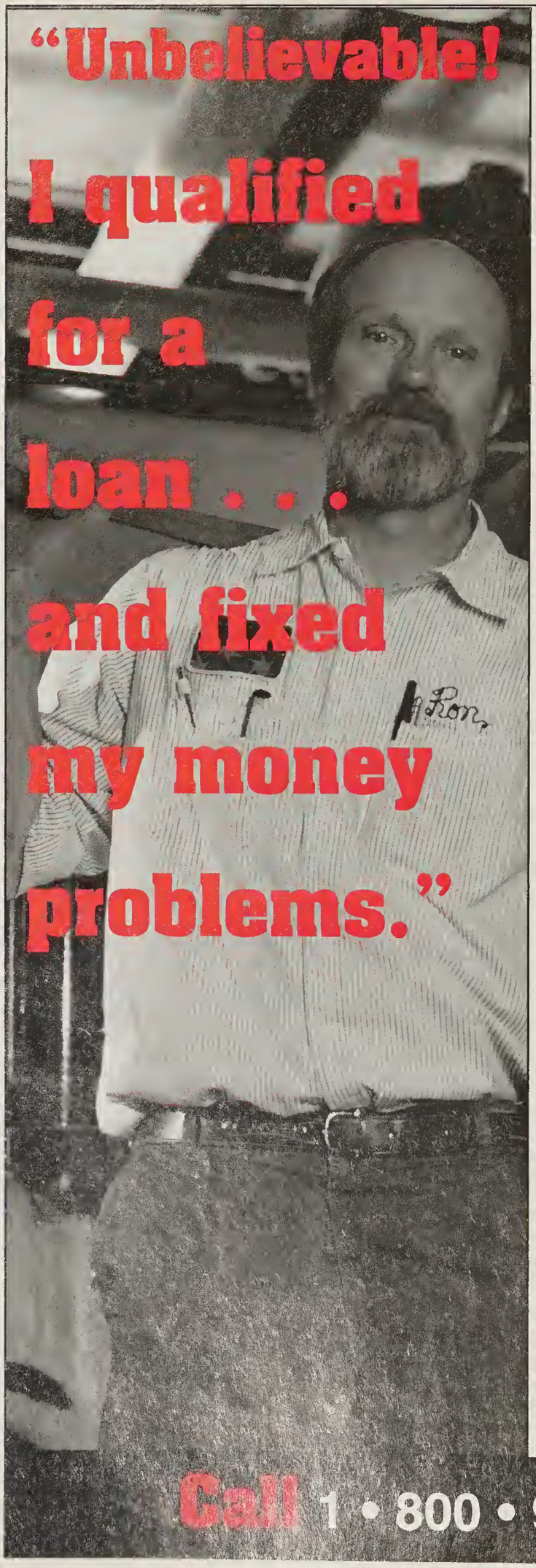
"I was a 2nd grader in Miss Tucker's class. . ." – Lessons That Last - *page 10*



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Avon Fishing Pier, licensed by the National Park Service, lighted by the sunrise and Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative *(Photo by Hildegard Sandhus[illegible])*

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Readers' comments

Sanford's tax

I read with interest the commentary about former Gov. Terry Sanford ["Commentary," June 1998]. I noticed that there was no mention of Mr. Sanford putting tax on our groceries while he was in office.

Richard H. Vanderford
Snow Camp
Piedmont EMC

Virginia blue bells?

I have been looking for a plant called Virginia Blue Bells. If any of you know where I could find this plant, I sure would be glad to buy it. Thanks for Carolina Country.

Ronnie Sigmon
6772 Paul Payne Store Rd.
Taylorsville, NC 28681

Monica's mark

This is the final issue of Carolina Country carrying the direct effect of Monica Russell. She retired contentedly in July, as Owen Bishop tells you on page 33. But her influence will remain with the magazine for a long time to come.

Monica loves this magazine. When anyone, anywhere, at any time even thought about criticizing Carolina Country, they faced the wrath of Monica Russell. And Monica's wrath is something to reckon with, let me tell you.

"Michael!" she'd cry out with no warning at all that she was coming. "You can't use that picture! They'll be calling here for weeks!"

And I would say, "What's wrong with it?'

"It's not nice!" Monica would say as though it's so obvious. "Why can't you use something nice?"

And I would say, "OK."

Most of the time, however, she's the kindest, most thoughtful person you'd want to know. More than 13 years she was here, keeping an eye on the magazine's business affairs, selling advertising, paying bills, choosing recipes, trying out her own recipes on us, checking proofs, negotiating with printers and mailing houses, helping readers find a 3-year-old article on bluebird boxes or the best kind of bulb to buy from an advertiser.

One reason she loves the magazine, I happen to know, is that she enjoyed so much associating with readers, advertisers and staff at the cooperatives.

Monica has no equal as a reliable, thorough business and advertising manager. In fact, when she officially retired in January, we persuaded her to stay on part-time until July. It took that long to teach a few other people the work she has done. Most of it will fall to advertising manager Jennifer Boedart Hoey, and our new business coordinator Jenny Lloyd, who continues to handle classified ads, accounts payable, subscriptions and other business functions.

We also added Renee Gannon to our staff, coinciding with Monica's "official" retirement last winter. Renee has brought considerable magazine experience. You've already seen her work on these pages.

But Monica Russell's mark just will not fade from these pages. (For one thing, she won't let us touch it.) Lucky for us, she lives only a couple of miles up the road, so we can get her to make us lunch.

– Michael Gery

"Trailers" by any other name

I was startled by the article on trailer houses in your April issue ["A Consumer's Guide to Manufactured Homes"]. Since your magazine is generally well edited, I couldn't understand why you printed such a blatant piece of industry propaganda.

First, it's full of industry self-aggrandizement. Just because Congress used the term "manufactured homes" doesn't mean anyone else has to or does -- it's a free country. Every-one I know around here, especially people who own and live in them, calls them "trailers."

Second, it's full of highly misleading claims that are very carefully worded to make them at least mostly true, but leave an impression that certainly is not. For example, the claim that trailers don't lose their value rapidly cites a study of units on the real estate tax rolls, and then only if they are put on permanent foundations and their running gear removed. I suspect that only the most expensive, best-built units are generally installed this way. It certainly doesn't describe the majority of trailers installed around here. I only wish the claim were true for the 10-year-old unit I recently sold for a tiny fraction of its original cost.

I understand that the issue of de-regulation is important to the cooperative industry, but if you continue to let your politics get in the way of your ethics, there will really be no good reason to continue the existence of the coops.

Terrence W. Reigel
375 Troy Norris rd.
Boone, NC 28607
Blue Ridge EMC

The "Consumer's Guide to Manufactured Homes," published in April had no relation to the issue of deregulation. It was an attempt to compile the latest information about manufactured homes so that prospective buyers can make informed decisions. Our research shows that a substantial number of new accounts at electric co-ops are at manufactured homes.

We sent Mr. Reigel a reply from Sandy Perry, who is manager of residential marketing for the N.C. Association of Electric Cooperatives and chair of the National Manufactured Housing Alliance. A portion of that reply appears here. — *MG*

Compared to the mobile homes of the past, manufactured housing units built today vary widely in appearance and cost. The appeal of manufactured housing lies in its affordability—especially the initial cost.

Our goal in discussing manufactured housing in Carolina Country is to educate consumers about energy efficiency options which, when coupled with manufactured housing's low acquisition costs, can help make the home affordable in terms of both purchase price and operating cost. Buyers who purchase a manufactured home based only on initial cost often find the cost to heat and cool the home exceeds the monthly mortgage payment. Purchasing an energy-efficient manufactured home with a heat pump ensures the homebuyer of a home that provides basic shelter, comfort, durability, affordability, and reduced indoor air pollutants.

When placed on a permanent foundation, a manufactured home can qualify for a conventional mortgage, not to mention a lower interest, energy-efficiency mortgage for homes built to the ElectriCheck or Energy Star specifications.

Historically the greatest factor contributing to depreciating value of manufactured housing was the practice of licensing manufactured homes as vehicles and applying a depreciation schedule to them. This practice is being replaced in North Carolina by a more traditional, real estate appraisal system.

Because a large portion of North Carolina consumers purchase manufactured homes, the article was written to inform consumers of advances in manufactured home construction since the first HUD code was established in 1976 and describe options available to them in the manufactured housing market.

This is a manufactured or "mobile" home built prior to the 1976 HUD standards.

The term "manufactured home" was adopted by the Congress to describe a type of house that is constructed in a factory to comply with a building code developed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In the past, manufactured homes were called "mobile homes" or "trailers," terms that many people still use. However, "mobile" is no longer an accurate name because fewer than five percent of such homes are ever moved off the owner's original site.

"This is a true story"

More "from the mouths of babes"

I truly enjoy reading your magazine each month. I get a lot of tips and laughs from you all.

I noticed in the June issue you had "From the mouths of babes." That was a cute story. I have one for you that I have told that just tickled me and I know God had to smile too.

Spring had sprung. Birds were singing. Flowers were blooming. And, of course, the grass was growing. My son, Thomas, 5, is an outdoorsman, boy of many trades, outspoken young man who loves to help his Daddy cut grass. He informs his Daddy on its growth. And being 5, he also notices when other yards need to be trimmed.

We were going down the road one beautiful Carolina morning, and Thomas was all talk about this and that, and we passed a cemetery. Thomas asked, "Whose grass is that, Mama?"

I didn't know what to say, so I told him, "It's God's grass, Thomas."

"Well," Thomas said with a tone in his voice, "God needs to cut his grass!" I chuckled and said, "Yea baby he does."

Well a day or two later we passed the same cemetery, and Thomas noticed that the grass had been cut. He was pleased that God had finally "cut his grass!"

Dianna Hinnant
Goldsboro
Tri-County EMC

Regretful

It seems that the subject of a newspaper article was referred to as "a defective on the police force." Naturally he wrote a letter to the editor, who acknowledged the error in the next issue: "We regret our error. The caption under the picture should have read, 'He is a detective on the police farce.'"

Richard Culyer
Mt. Gilead
Pee Dee EMC

Out of stock

Chicken breasts went on sale at the local grocery store where I work. One day a friend of mine came in to buy some, but she couldn't find any in the case. Her nephew was a new manager there, so she marched up to him and asked, "Where are the chicken breasts, Sammy?"

He replied, "On the chicken, I reckon."

Tschanna Harris
Roxboro
Piedmont EMC

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More power to you

Tideland EMC ships generator from Ocracoke to the Bolivian rainforest

In May, Tideland EMC began establishing international ties by shipping a 24-ton generator to an electric co-op in the mountainous rainforest of northern Bolivia.

Ann Ehringhaus

The generator aboard the Ocracoke ferry.

The eastern North Carolina co-op arranged to have its decommissioned generator moved by crane, flat bed truck, ferry boat, barge and train from the breezy island of Ocracoke to the depths of Riberalta, Bolivia, near the Brazilian border. The Fairbanks-Morse generator had been installed at Ocracoke in 1978, but was replaced in 1990 by a larger unit owned by the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation. Since then Tideland has had the machinery up for adoption. General Manager Joe Slater asked the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) International Programs Department to help find a buyer for the diesel-powered generator.

NRECA and other U.S. co-ops previously assisted Riberalta Electric Cooperative construct a 1.5-megawatt steam generator used in processing Brazil nuts—the linchpin of the region's economy. The slow process of shelling the nuts by hand could not keep up with demand, so the industry graduated to the steam generator fueled by burning waste nut shells. That generator, however, provides only 35 percent of Riberalta's electric needs.

The Tideland generator will help the Bolivian co-op guarantee 24-hour electricity to its members and to expand electric service. The generator is capable of producing 1 megawatt of electricity in Bolivia. The average Riberalta household consumes 60 kilowatt-hours per month at an average rate of 22 cents per kwh, compared with Tideland EMC members who average 900 kwh, at a rate of 8.5 cents per kwh.

Rural electrification in South America creates jobs that can help reduce the dependence on the cocaine market. NRECA, as well as other North Carolina co-ops, have fostered the development of electric cooperatives worldwide since the 1960s. Often, assistance comes in the form of technical and administrative training for new or struggling cooperatives. Most of the cooperatives on the receiving end of the assistance are located in Central and South America. Blue Ridge Electric in Lenoir, for example, conducts a sister relationship with a large co-op in the Amazon Basin of Bolivia.

The Riberalta co-op is expected to receive the generator by mid-August. The equipment should arrive in Arica, Chile, the closest port to Bolivia, then go by trucks 1,000 miles over rough, mountain terrain to Riberalta.

At work in Washington

1. Meeting with Rep. Mike McIntyre are (from left) South River EMC's director Carlton Martin, general manager Buddy Creed, the Congressman and director Bill Tew.

2. Roanoke Electric's director Thomas Langston (left) does business with Congressman Walter B. Jones Jr.

Fleet Watch group will keep an eye on their communities

Seven cooperatives comprising the Cooperatives of Eastern Carolina have joined Fleet Watch as a way of keeping a watchful eye on their communities.

Fleet Watch is a statewide program sponsored by the N.C. Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, Crime Prevention Division. The program utilizes outside workers as crime watchers in the areas where they work. It's a community watch on wheels.

The Fleet Watch seal has been placed on vehicles operated by Tideland, Edgecombe-Martin County, Albemarle, Halifax, Pitt & Greene (a member since 1995), Roanoke and Cape Hatteras electric cooperatives.

Fleet Watch personnel use radio communication systems to alert law enforcement officers to suspicious or criminal activities

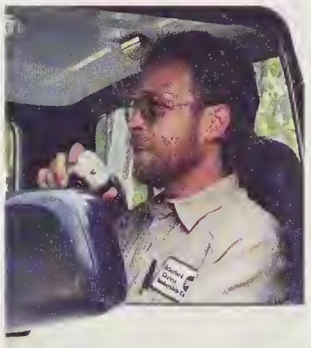
Tideland EMC's Jimmy Hart places a Fleet Watch sticker on a co-op truck.

they notice while they are out in their communities. Co-op workers receive specialized training about what to watch for and how to relay information to dispatch units. Personnel also receive a crime-reporting handbook to help with noting descriptions of vehicles, suspects or wrecks.

Statewide, more than 1,600 workers from 100 companies participate in the program, helping areas that have limited law enforcement protection. "In Pitt County, there is about 650 square miles and law enforcement agencies cannot be everywhere at one time," says Major Glenn Ferrell of the Pitt County Sheriff's Department. "You can never get enough help."

Hometown heroes

Employees of electric cooperatives are more than just linemen, customer service personnel or meter readers. They also are an extra pair of eyes and ears in the communities they serve. Recently, several cooperative employees were there when it counted.



Eddie Jones of Rutherford EMC.

Rutherford EMC meter reader *Eddie Jones* knew something was amiss when he approached a member's home to read the meter and instead witnessed someone running from the house toward the woods. Jones yelled at the intruder, then realized the person had a gun. He then called the local Rutherford EMC cooperative office so that 911 could be notified. While he waited for the police, the homeowner, Pamela Cox, arrived and Jones persuaded her not to go inside until the law came. Police investigators reported that the home had been burglarized, and that a bag of stolen goods was found near a window. Following the trail the burglar left, the police discovered a gun and plastic gloves. They did not find a suspect, however. The family has praised Jones for his help in reporting the break-in and protecting the homeowner.

"I really appreciate him standing by her until the police arrived on the scene," says Victor Cox, Pamela's husband. "Mr. Jones more than likely saved my family a lot of heartache. He is a great example of an involved citizen and an excellent employee." Since the break-in, Jones has reported yet another burglary attempt at two members' homes when he noticed a broken window with a mop handle sticking out of it at one home and a door open at the other home with muddy footprints leading inside.

In Davidson EMC's territory, two heroes emerged this spring after a tornado ripped through the Stoneville area. Two employees, *Steve Mills* and *Tim Corum*, were making their way along a road strewn with downed tress when their truck was stopped by two women who told Mills and Corum of a vanload of children trapped up ahead. They sent out a "mayday" call via the truck's radio and asked someone to call 911. Driving over rough terrain, they came across the van with a pregnant woman and three children inside. All were covered with blood, mud and glass and were very scared. Knowing the storm debris would inhibit the progress of any rescue vehicle, Mills and Corum cut the road open and drove the group to the nearest doctor's office a few miles a way. Corum drove the van while Mills followed in the truck.

Debbie Paris praised the men for their act of courage in rescuing herself, her daughter and the two other children. "If they had not come along, I do not know what we would have done. Also, since I was five and a half months pregnant, I received quick medical attention that stopped the labor I was experiencing. Therefore, they also saved our baby's life. We are so grateful to Steve and Tim for their help and wanted everyone to know what valuable employees they are."

Electrifying extras

Hurricane power

A mature hurricane is by far the most powerful event on earth; the combined nuclear arsenals of the United States and the former Soviet Union don't contain enough energy to keep a hurricane going for one day. A typical hurricane encompasses a million cubic miles of atmosphere and could provide all the electric power needed by the United States for three or four years. During the Labor Day Hurricane of 1935, winds surpassed 200 miles an hour and people caught outside were sandblasted to death. Rescue workers found nothing but their shoes and belt buckles. So much rain can fall during a hurricane – up to five inches an hour — that the soil liquefies. Hillsides slump into valleys and birds drown in flight, unable to shield their upward-facing nostrils. In 1970, a hurricane drowned half a million people in what is now Bangladesh. In 1938, a hurricane put downtown Providence, Rhode Island, under ten feet of ocean. The waves generated by that storm were so huge that they literally shook the earth; seismographs in Alaska picked up their impact five thousand miles away.

From "The Perfect Storm: A True Story of Men Against the Sea," by Sebastian Junger. W.W.Norton & Co., 1997.

2,000 soccer fans storm power plant

Bangladeshi soccer fans warned in June that if the power went off while they were watching World Cup matches on TV they'd burn down or blow up the power plants. And sure enough, according to news reports, the country's Power Development Board couldn't keep the juice flowing for even one complete game.

In the coastal Cox's Bazar district, the lights went out early in the second half of Brazil's opening game 2-1 win over Scotland, and the soccer fans kept their promise. About 2,000 enraged fans carrying makeshift weapons stormed the local electric utility in Ramu when their television sets blinked off.

As the utility officials fled away, the angry mob damaged furniture and almost pulled down the place, according to the reports.

Lessons That Last

The finest lesson you ever learned in school

Think of all the teachers you've had and how hard they worked to get you to listen and learn something.

I remember all my teachers – from Mrs. Gillespie in first grade who taught me to read (she definitely had her work cut out for her) through Arthur Kinney in college who taught me to read William Faulkner (a writer who must not have paid attention when he learned to read, or he wouldn't have made it so hard for the rest of us).

Some say that teachers aren't paid enough. When you think of all they do for us, you may tend to agree. The stories on these pages can be a small way of giving teachers the bonus they deserve. These stories show that schoolteachers lay lasting lessons on their students every day (and sometimes students can do the same to teachers).

We were lucky enough to read more than 200 of these stories, all of them serious expressions of gratitude for lessons learned. We'll save them all and try to publish them in one way or another. Next month we'll run a selection of your photograghs judged to be "The Finest Pictures of North Carolina." (Deadline was July 15). There's still time to enter a story on "You're So Fine: Why I Like My Electric Cooperative." *(Deadline is August 15)*. See page 12 for details.

– MG

The Flower Girl

I attended West Lenoir Elementary in Lenoir at the time when Luther Robinson was principal. He had two daughters who were victims of polio. One daughter died during the epidemic, the other lived for many years with the assistance of an iron lung. (He wrote "How I Made Peace With Polio.")

During the years that I attended West Lenoir I always took miniature carnations my mother grew and gave them to Mr. Robinson. Every morning when they were in bloom I met Mr. Robinson with a fist full of flowers. At the time I did not realize the impact it had had on him. His daughters were stricken with polio and were unable to do many of the childhood things we all do for our parents out of innocent love for them.

Years passed, and I was graduating from high school. On Awards Day I was presented with the Alta and Anita Robinson Scholarship in honor of Mr. Robinson's daughters. Mr. Robinson made the presentation himself.

Later he said, "You probably think I don't really remember you, but I do. You were my little flower girl for many years." He had a smile on his face and tears in his eyes.

Today I am a teacher, and I feel honored to have been a part of his life and to have received his gift of kindness.

Susan P. McFarland
Lenoir
Blue Ridge EMC

The Bonus Question

I was in the seventh grade at S. Ray Lowder School, Lincolnton, in Mr. Lowe's and Mr. Michol's PE and health class. All that week, we had been studying the health problems smoking causes. Friday we had a test. The last question on the test was: "I promise not to smoke." (Check yes or no.)

I thought about it very much, because my parents always told us never say you are going to do something unless you plan to do it, and never make a promise you can't keep. Needless to say I checked "yes" and I never have smoked, thanks to teachers who showed me what smoking does to our bodies and parents who taught us to keep our word. Plus, the great minds of teachers who added a bonus question to a test.

Meachel Kiser-Starnes
Lincolnton
Rutherford EMC

Lula as a second grader (left) with her older brother David and little brother Tommy.

The Lunchroom Lessons

In 1954 I started in the first grade at Saint Paul's. I liked school but was a bit of a clown. We were lined up outside getting ready to go to lunch. Mrs. Hay, my teacher, told us not to jump over the low shrubs, and of course I did it. She just called my name, so I knew that she saw me. When we got to the lunchroom she told me to stay outside. I didn't get any lunch that day. That might sound cruel, but I never forgot the lesson to do what I am told.

In 1962 a black person came to school. I was in high school at Parkton, a very small school in Robeson County. It was a bad time for all kids, black and white, all over the country. I liked black people. Some of my best friends were black people who lived with us out on Highway 301. But that day a girl came to our school, now I can't even remember her name. There was no violence or name-calling, just silence. But in the lunchroom, I was sitting alone and she came and sat down with me, I spoke just once and that was all. I could feel the eyes of the students and teachers on me, so I didn't talk to her. I never saw her again. If I had talked to her, that would have eased her pain so she could get through that day. After all, she was just a human being like me just trying to get an education so she could make a decent living. This was the most painful lesson of them all.

Lula Kersey Grover
Fayetteville
South River EMC

The Young Mother

The finest lesson I ever learned at school came while I was a high school teacher. I was expecting my first child, and besides telling students the due date and how excited I was, I kept most details of my personal life to myself.

On my last day, before saying good-bye, I asked the students what advice they, as teenagers, would have for expectant parents. I was overwhelmed with their honesty and sincerity. For instance, they suggested that I hug my children, tell them that I love them everyday, be involved in their lives, show them respect, take them to church, talk with them, listen to what they have to say, never let them talk back, follow through on whatever I say I'm going to do. And finally, never forget that I am the parent.

Listening to them gave me a sense of confidence. Now I am trying to do the things they taught me. Parenting is a thousand times more difficult than teaching. However, it is very rewarding, and when times get tough, I think to myself just hug him, tell him that I love him . . .

Lori Craig
Hampstead
Jones-Onslow EMC

The Fall

A lesson I learned at school was never take anything that doesn't belong to you. My grandmother always told us you would suffer for it.

We were poor farm children. One day a girl was eating peanut butter. It smelled so good. I had never had any peanut butter. I got a chance to slip some out of her desk. It was very good.

After school, coming down the steps, I fell down and broke my arm. Anytime after that when I was tempted to take something, I always thought of how I suffered from taking that peanut butter when I was in third grade.

No more stealing for me.

Beula Ramsey
Harkers Island
Harkers Island EMC

The Writing on the Wall

The finest lesson I ever learned in school was not taught in any classroom; I read it on a wall. Several walls, in fact.

The junior high school I attended had a large room partitioned off into several cubicles that were used for individual student-advisor counseling sessions. One day I noticed some faded but still legible, large "fancy script" writing high up on the wall, just below ceiling level. I discovered that the words were part of a long quotation that ran around all four walls of the room. It read: "There is hardly anything in this world that some man can't make a little poorer and sell a little cheaper, and those who consider price alone are his lawful prey."

Throughout the years since I first read that message, I've found it to be an excellent guide for life, not only in considering the purchase of goods and services, but in judging other people's actions as well.

Jay Harris
Candler
Haywood EMC

The Color Red

We stared hungrily at the familiar green and yellow boxes stacked tall on Miss Tucker's desk that early fall day in 1969. "Class, I've got to run to the principal's office," said my beloved second grade teacher whose blond hair flipped up at the ends. "Read quietly until I get back. Then I'll pass out your new crayons, O.K.?"

As the clicking of Miss Tucker's high-heels receded down the hallway, anticipation overcame an ordinarily shy girl in hand-me-downs named Carolyn. She slipped to the front and unfolded a cardboard cover to run her stubby fingers over the smoothly-shaved crayons. Then she pulled out a red one and accidentally snapped it in two. With fear on her face, Carolyn hurried back to her

continued on page

Nothing could be finer

The Color Red *continued*

seat. "You're gonna get in trouble!" jeered Buddy, the class loudmouth, in his rhythmic whine.

When Miss Tucker reappeared, Buddy blurted, "Carolyn opened the crayons and broke one!"

Unaccustomed to notoriety, the nervous little girl could no longer suppress guilty tears. Miss Tucker went to Carolyn and stroked her hair and offered encouragement until she nodded reluctantly with one last sniffle.

After a sharp reprimand to Buddy for his insensitivity, Miss Tucker addressed the class with a message I have never forgotten: "There are many more crayons in the world, but only one Carolyn."

Susan L. Comer
Winston-Salem
Davidson EMC

The CCC Camp

On July 26, 1998, I'll be 83 years old, so I've had a lot of "schooling." I learned early to work hard to make it in this world. I picked blackberries, collected roots and herbs, dug ditches and worked at sawmills.

In 1933, I joined the Civilian Conservation Corps, later known as the CCC Camp. I was in camp in Hendersonville where I met my future wife of 53 years. She passed away in 1987.

In CCC Camp, we cleared land, built roads and attended classes. Having had only seven years of public school, I was eager to take classes to improve myself. I learned enough about construction that later I built a house for my wife and seven children. I learned money management so I could support my family.

Living through the Depression taught me to appreciate the good things in life and to enjoy the things we're blessed with today. The finest lesson I learned is to give thanks to God for each day and for all His blessings in life. He has blessed me to remarry since my first wife's death, and He is still blessing me today after over 82 years.

Boyd J. Caudill
Traphill
Surry-Yadkin EMC

The Barefoot Boy

When school started in the fall, I wore dresses my Grandmother made with ribbons and lace and eyelet trim. Before school started, Mother would buy me more clothes and new shoes.

Etched in my memory today, as if it were yesterday, I see a poor classmate with no shoes. Some kids made jokes about him, and he would only laugh. I can't imagine how he must have felt. I remember standing across from him in the lunch line. He was barefoot and it was cold weather. He continually put one foot on top of the other, back and forth, trying to keep his feet warm, one foot at a time. When my eyes met his, he was smiling the biggest smile, as if it were just a little game he was playing. I smiled back, but suddenly my dresses and shoes took on a whole new meaning. Shoes that I took for granted were a luxury for him.

Forty-one years later, I look back at joyous moments in school. However, that third grade boy with no shoes made me realize a priceless lesson that I needed to learn. It was a lesson in humility.

Patricia Floyd
Asheboro
Randolph EMC

The Star of the Show

I grew up in the North Carolina mountains near Boone. I attended Bethel Elementary School, the smallest of eight schools in Watauga County.

We were having an eighth grade play and as usual all the good parts went to the most popular students in eighth grade. I desperately wanted to be in the play, so I accepted the part of an old wash woman dressed in rags, a part that no one else wanted. In my role I sat washing on an old washboard. I did not have any words to speak, but at one point I was supposed to stick my tongue out in reply to a high-and-mighty character. When I did this, it was so funny to the audience that I ended up as the star of the play.

I learned from this experience that you don't have to have the starring role in life to make a difference. Take the role you have, and give it all you have. You will sometimes be surprised at the results.

Penny Arnette
Sugar Grove
Blue Ridge Electric

Send us your stories and photos. Earn $50.

Here are the themes and deadlines for the coming months of "Nothing Could Be Finer." You don't have to be a superior writer to send us a letter. Put your heart into it, as the writers this month did.

The Rules

1. Approximately 200 words or less.
2. Only one entry per household per month.
3. Typed or e-mail, if possible. Otherwise, make it legible.
4. Include your name, electric co-op, mailing address and phone number.
5. If you want your entry returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. (We will not return others.)
6. We pay $50 for each submission published.
7. Send to Nothing Finer, Carolina Country, 3400 Sumner Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27616. Or by e-mail: carolina.country@ncemcs.com

October

You're So Fine: Why I Like My Electric Cooperative
What does your electric cooperative mean to you?
Deadline: August 15

November

The Finest North Carolina Gift You Can Give
(Made in North Carolina.)
Deadline: Sept. 15

December

The Finest Story in North Carolina History
Historical truths, humorous or otherwise.
Deadline: Oct. 15

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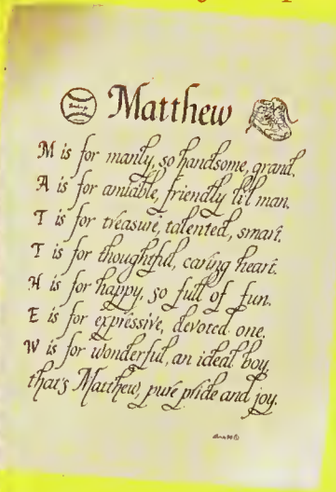
Your child's name becomes a poem

Jessica
J is for jewel, heart of pure gold.
E is for expressive, a happy soul.
S is for special, beauty that's rare.
S is for sweet, loving and fair.
I is for intelligent, bright as the sun
C is for caring, thoughtful one.
A is for angel, a joy from Above,
Jessica, so precious, and so loved.

The beauty of poetry, the art of calligraphy


Matthew
M is for manly, so handsome, grand,
A is for amiable, friendly & man.
T is for treasure, talented, smart,
T is for thoughtful, caring heart.
H is for happy, so full of fun.
E is for expressive, devoted one.
W is for wonderful, an ideal boy,
that's Matthew, pure pride and joy.

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Teachers are the heart of the school

"Since 1994, the electrical cooperatives in my state have sponsored a grant program for teachers called "Bright Ideas," and it has been a roaring success. . . . Mr. President, "Bright Ideas" is just one of the many ways the members of North Carolina's electric cooperatives help their communities and support their public schools. I congratulate them for seeing a need and providing precious resources to challenge the children in North Carolina's classrooms."

Sen. Jesse Helms
From a 400-word statement about the Bright Ideas Grant Program that Sen. Helms entered into the Congressional Record in June

Becky Hoyle, a two-time grant winner, is the 1998-99 N.C. Teacher of the Year

Police cruisers with blue lights swirling escorted Rebecca Hoyle to school last spring when she returned from Raleigh as North Carolina's 1998-99 Teacher of the Year. Some 850 students at Jacksonville Commons Elementary greeted her on the school grounds with wild cheering, streamers, a banner proclaiming "You're simply the best," and plenty of music. It may have been the only time that music teacher Becky Hoyle didn't really hear the music.

Jones-Onslow Electric Membership Corporation recognized Becky Hoyle's special talents when the cooperative awarded her a Bright Ideas Grant in both 1995-96 and 1996-97. The award was for the project entitled "Our Multi-cultural World Through Music," and allowed the school to study and create music on instruments from various cultures.

The Teacher of the Year spends the school year traveling the state as a spokesperson for the teaching profession, receives a $7,500 stipend, a laptop computer and printer, and a national conference trip. Also, the Teacher of the Year serves a two-year term as advisor to the State Board of Education.

Ms. Hoyle has taught 21 years in Onslow County. She also has worked in Henderson City Schools, Vance County Schools, Ravenscroft Lower School in Raleigh, and McDowell County Schools. She is involved in her school as chairman of the School Improvement Team and past member of the System-Wide Improvement Team. She's worked as a mentor teacher and with student teacher interns. She's been an instructor for Effective Teacher Training and a staff development trainer.

"Ms. Hoyle is a phenomenal educator," said school principal Kay Glover. "She is going to be a wonderful advocate for teachers across the state. We will hate to lose her for a year."

A graduate of East Carolina University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Rebecca Hoyle is also active in her community. She is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and its choir, teaches piano students after school, serves as vice president of the Onslow Chapter of the NC Symphony Society and is a member of the Onslow Council for the Arts and the Community Concert Series.

The Teacher of the Year is selected from six regional finalists. A statewide panel interviews them, visits their classrooms and interviews their colleagues and students.

John Althouse

Becky Hoyle with her Jacksonville Commons Elementary class.

National publicity for a Stanly County school began with Ginger Watson's Bright Idea

Math teacher Ginger Watson finally answered the age-old question so many young people ask with a huff: "What does knowing the perimeter and area of a rectangle have to do with making it in the real world?" Ms. Watson and her 6th grade students at New London Elementary visited a picture framing business to see first-hand the relationship between geometry and measurement to custom framing. The students went through a step-by-step "hands-on" procedure for custom framing, including measuring and formatting the framing process to assemble the picture. (By the way, the perimeter of a rectangle is P=2 x (L + W), and the area is A=L x W.)

Ms. Watson's "Parents/Businesses: Partnership In School" math project earned her and the school a Bright Ideas Grant from Union Electric Membership Corporation. Union EMC financed the co-teaching project during the 1996-97 school year. Ms. Watson also represented Stanley County as Math Teacher of the Year for her math project achievements.

Students visited varied businesses in the New London area to see first-hand how math relates to the work environment. They saw demonstrations of basic math operations and problem-solving skills at banks, restaurants and department stores. Students dealt with payrolls, purchasing, construction and other varied areas involving math applications.

Ginger Watson (left) with Sue Doby, a student's parent, at "Working Mother" awards ceremony.

By involving parents and businesses in the teaching process, the project has shown that students' learning significantly increases and the parents become more engaged in the sharing of student responsibilities and accomplishments. In looking for, using, talking and writing about the real-world applications of math, some students may even begin to consider certain career choices.

Ginger Watson's project was recognized for excellence by both the state and federal departments of education. "Working Mother" magazine picked up the story and along with Columbia University gave the project an award for involving parents in schools. The New London school was honored when Ms. Watson appeared on NBC's "Today" TV show with parent Sandy Curry and her daughter Natalie Harper. And this summer, she was one of four North Carolina teachers honored in Washington, D.C., with the 1998 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics.

"Parents and community involvement are essential ingredients—perhaps the most crucial components—of building stronger schools and increasing student achievement," U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley told the assembly in Washington.

By forming an educational partnership, the schools and the community of New London have shown that involvement does build a better learning environment. And as Ginger Watson told Union EMC, "It all started with a Bright Idea."

"The heart of a school is in the teachers: those women and men who work together to engage children and young people in the most important pursuit of learning."
Mike Ward, state superintendent Department of Public Instruction.

The 1998-88 Bright Ideas Grant season is open

North Carolina's electric cooperatives and their statewide organization, the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation, are accepting applications from teachers and schools for the 1998-99 Bright Ideas Grants Program.

Here is information pertaining to the program:

- Bright Ideas grants are awarded annually by the state's electric cooperatives and their statewide organization, the North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation.
- The program is open to all North Carolina public school educators serving grades K-12.
- The grants underwrite innovative instructional projects the schools could not otherwise afford.
- The grants are awarded annually in a competitive evaluation process involving volunteer judges throughout the state.
- Applications for the 1998-99 awards must be postmarked no later than September 25, 1998.
- Online and printable application forms are available at this website: www.ncemcs.com.
- Since the program began in 1994, the grants have underwritten more than 1,400 projects, benefiting about 400,000 students.
- About 2,000 applications were submitted for 1997-98 awards.
- Grants amounting to $330,000 were awarded for 1997-98, raising the program's total contributions to Tar Heel educators above the $1 million mark. That total includes $239,000 the co-ops awarded from local funds to assist schools in the communities they serve.

For more information, write to:
Owen Bishop, P. O. Box 27306,
Raleigh, NC 27611-7306.
Call toll-free: (800) 662-8835, ext. 3034.
Email: owen.bishop@ncemcs.com.

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Jeff, Carrie and Blair Powell (above) in the "Rustburg", a 1700 sq. ft. Cape Cod model. "We love our Mod-U-Kraf home. It has a great floor plan and it's very comfortable. In the five years since we purchased our home, it has significantly increased in value."

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Stay Safe

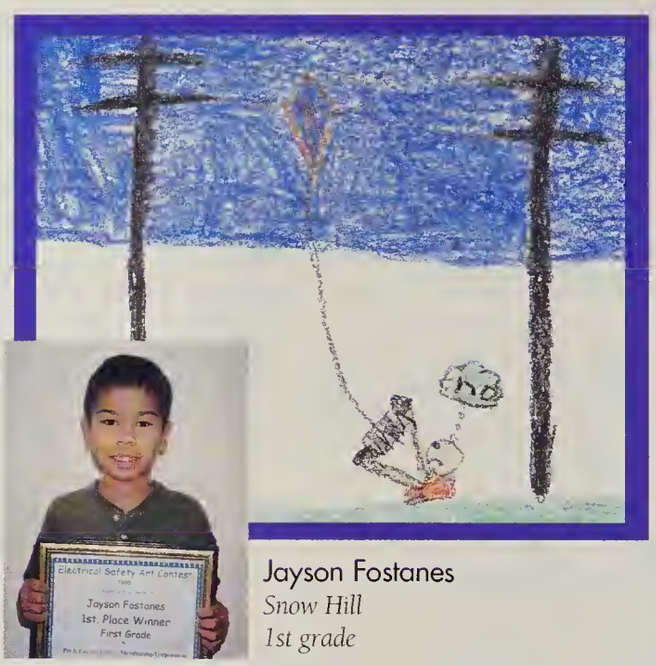
Pitt & Greene EMC recognizes award-winning art

Photos by Sue Beal

During Electrical Safety Month last May, Pitt & Greene Electric Membership Corporation of Farmville conducted an art contest among the elementary schools in its service area of eastern North Carolina.

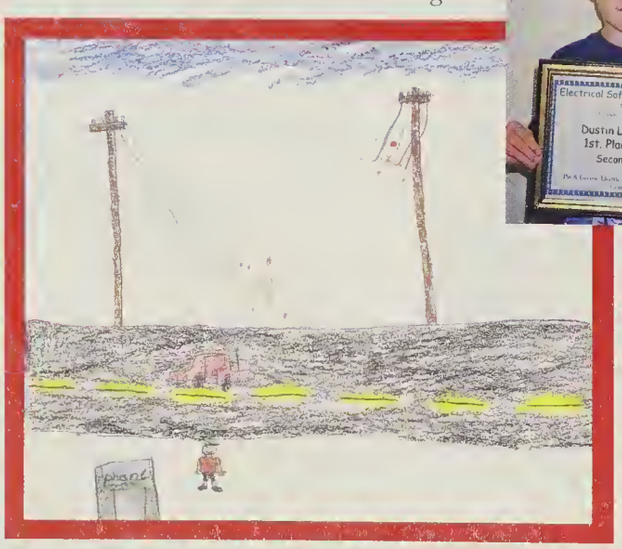
Shown here are the First Place winners. Congratulations to all the winners who not only understand the need to be safe around electricity, but who can illustrate it as well.

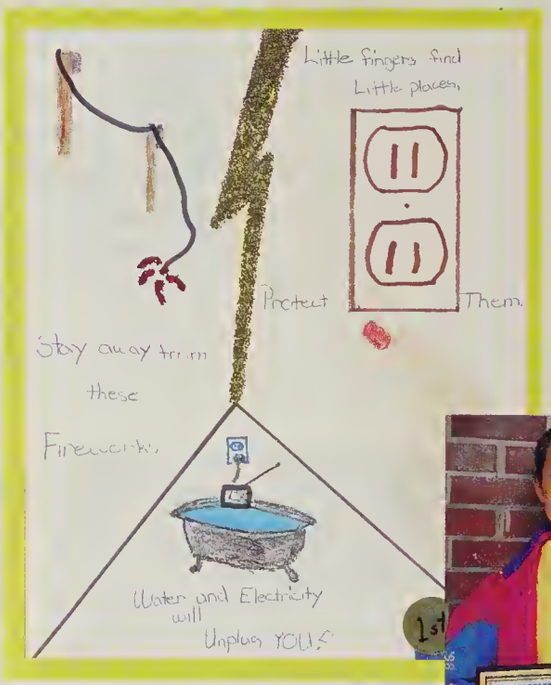
Jason Gay
Walstonberry
Kindergarten



Jayson Fostanes
Snow Hill
1st grade

Dustin Letchworth
Hookerton
2nd grade





Larissa Harris
Kinston
3rd grade

Want to see your child's art featured in the magazine? Check out page 26 for more details.

Along the Low Water Bridge at Rockford

Photographs by Gerald Yokely

The Low Water Bridge, as people here call it, spans the Yadkin River between Yadkin County and the historic Surry County town of Rockford. It is one of only three such structures left in the state. Transportation officials have made known their plans to replace the old bridge with a new structure, leaving many Surry and Yadkin inhabitants with mixed emotions.

Dennis Simpson, who has lived all his life near the bridge, remembers the day in the summer of 1962, when as a boy on his bike he was the first person to cross the newly finished bridge. Gazing across the old weathered expanse now he remembers treacherous, predawn crossings on icy mornings, and dark nights when the wooden side rails would disappear in the opaque fog along the river.

A tobacco warehouse, dating back to the 19th century, in late evening repose at the edge of the historic Rockford village, a place served by Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation. The presence of very old houses and buildings, or the traces of where they once stood, as in the case of the local hotel, indicate just how long the town of Rockford has existed.

The Rockford General Store, opened to the public these days only once in a while, offers visitors a glimpse of the wares sold in their grandparents' day.

Carolina close-up

Compiled by Renee Gannon

Books

More on North Carolina hurricanes

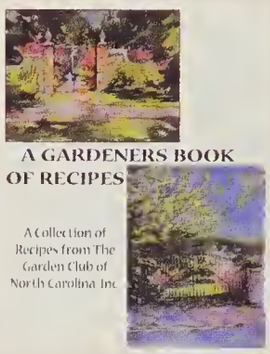
Since Bertha and Fran roared ashore in 1996, most people have added these two storms to the list of greatest North Carolina storms of all time along with Hazel, Donna and Hazel. Jay Barnes records the impact of the 1996 storms in a revised edition of "North Carolina's Hurricane History." First published in 1995, the new edition has 33 new pages of coverage and photos of Fran, as well as an extensive section on Bertha.

The book is an illustrated record of more than 50 hurricanes known to have struck North Carolina, from as early as the first European explorers. More than 200 photographs, maps and illustrations accompany the words of calamity each storm brought to the state.

"North Carolina's Hurricane History" is available at bookstores or from the University of North Carolina Press for $18.95 paperback and $34.95 hardcover. Credit card orders are also taken by calling (800) 848-6224.

Cookin' in Carolina

New cookbooks from the Garden Club and Terra Ceia



In "A Gardeners Book of Recipes," more than 1,000 recipes have been gathered from throughout North Carolina, including a variety of old and new recipes as well as a section about edible flowers. All proceeds from the sale of the book go to the Daniel Boone Native Gardens in Boone and the Elizabethan Gardens in Manteo. Artist renditions of both are featured on the cookbook's cover. The cookbook can be ordered by sending a check for $20.95 to The Garden Club of North Carolina, Inc., P.O. Box 12585, Raleigh, N.C. 27605-2585 or purchased directly from any garden club member or at the State Headquarters, 505 Oberlin Rd., Room 150, Raleigh. For more information, call (704) 528-6691.

Terra Ceia Christian School, located in the eastern North Carolina Dutch community of Terra Ceia, is offering its third cookbook, "WELKOM." Traditional and Dutch food items, in addition to a selection of seafood recipes, are featured in the cookbook. Proceeds from sales benefit the school, which is a non-profit organization. The cookbooks cost $12 plus $3.50 for shipping and handling. Send a check or money order to Terra Ceia Christian School, 3025 Beech Ridge Rd., Belhaven, NC 27810. For more information, contact Jackie Butcher at (252) 935-5276.

Sustaining rural communities

The Partners in Agriculture project is looking for ways to improve and sustain farms in North Carolina's rural communities. The project is one of 18 similar projects in the United States funded by the Kellogg Foundation to look at more sustainable ways of growing food and maintaining rural communities. This means caring about the needs of the farmers as well as the consumers, being concerned about efficient and profitable production and the environment, and making sure that agricultural systems have a positive impact on social lives, communities and young people.

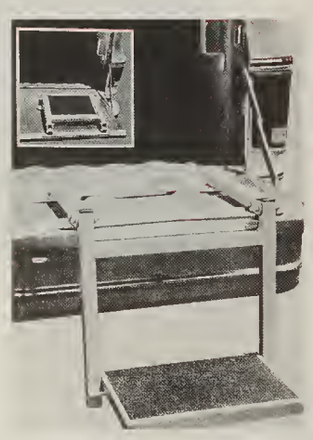
Seven organizations joined forces for the North Carolina project: Carolina Farm Stewardship Association, Land Loss Prevention Project, NC A&T University, NC Coalition for Farm and Rural Families, NC State University, Rural Advancement Foundation International USA and Rural Southern Voice for Peace.

Four N.C. communities are involved in the project, surveying their residents, both farmer and consumer, to find out what is needed to keep the farming communities together for the sake of all. Those four are Madison/North Buncombe County area; Operation Spring Plant in Granville County and the surrounding counties; peanut farmers in Martin, Bertie and Halifax counties; and the town of Magnolia.

The participants believe that looking at issues that are important to people in different regions of the state will help all understand what is needed to make rural communities strong and viable, while maintaining a solid agricultural base.

Contact Carolina Farm Stewardship at 13 Hillsboro St., Pittsboro, NC 27312. Phone: (919) 542-2402.

Easy Step up to pick-up truck tailgate



A new 19-inch Easy Step is available to owners of trucks having a 16 or 19-inch-high tailgate. Easy Steps allows owners to walk into their truck bed, rather than crawl in. It reduces strain for anyone entering the truck bed and prevents injuries caused by slipping off the trailer hitch when used as a step.

The step is made of steel, covered with durable powder coat, metal paint and a non-skid surface. A safety handle is also provided. The step is attached to the inside of the tailgate with metal screws and folds compactly on the inside of the tailgate. The price is about $85 including shipping.

For additional information, contact Bick & Associates, Inc., 13830 Kingsride Lane, Houston, TX 77079; call (281) 531-1667 or fax (281) 531-9655; or visit the web site at www.edbick.com.

Warhol painting joins other contemporary pieces in Raleigh

Andy Warhol's "Green Coca-Cola Bottles" will be on display at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh for the rest of the year. One of the most controversial and influential artists of our time, Warhol celebrated the images and slogans of American consumerism. In "Green Coca-Cola Bottles," created in 1962, the artist replicates the bottle 112 times for a painting that touches on issues of uniformity, mass production and the power of advertising. Warhol once said that "all Cokes are the same and all Cokes are good."

Other contemporary artists on display at the museum include Martin Puryear's "His Eminence," a sculpture of red cedar and pine; Stanton Macdonald-Wright's "Nature" and "Two Women with Musical Instruments," both oil on canvas; Odd Nerdrum's "Water Protectors," an oil on canvas; and Rachel Whiteread's plaster wall sculpture "Untitled (Five Shelves)."

Study finds St. John's wort can cut alcohol consumption

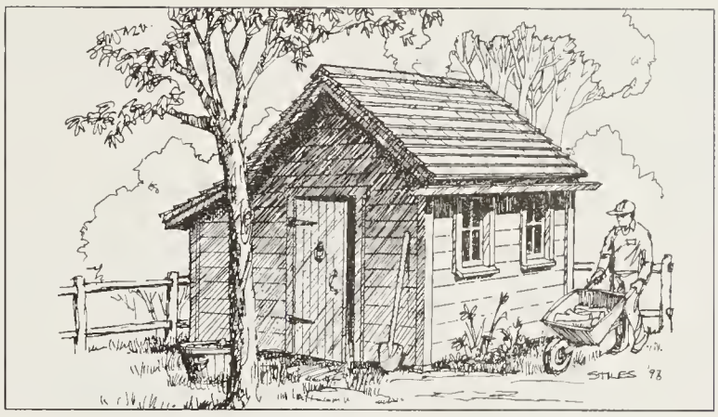
Flowers from a plant called St. John's wort may also reduce alcohol intake in laboratory animals, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill researchers have discovered. The plant's active ingredient, hypericin, may prove effective in the fight against alcohol dependency, the scientists say.

According to Amir H. Rezvani, research associate professor of psychiatry at the UNC-CH School of Medicine, St. John's wort already is the most often prescribed antidepressant in Germany and may be as effective as Prozac and produce fewer side effects.

St. John's wort is a common wildflower in Europe, western Asia, North Africa and in North America, particularly the Pacific Northwest.

The UNC-CH experiments at the Skipper Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies involved rats that were selectively bred to prefer alcohol. When given a choice, such rats will consume little water, but much alcohol, said Rezvani. "In one set of experiments," the scientist said, "we gave the compound to the rats by mouth and then gave them free access to water and alcohol for 24 hours. We then measured their alcohol intake every two hours, and found that those receiving the compound drank less, about 50 percent less than the untreated animals."

"We don't know yet whether the compound will work in human alcoholics, but we are optimistic," he said. "Since it is an herb, it should have no side effects or fewer side effects than synthetic drugs."



A David Stiles shed.

Backyard storage solutions

Having a convenient space to store garden tools, mulch, lawn mower, bikes and other "can't find a place for it" items is now easier to obtain by building yourself a 10-by-11-foot all-purpose storage shed. Designed by David Stiles, author of "Sheds," the storage unit can be built by following step-by-step instructions and illustrations.

The shed features a large skylight and overhang storage in the rear for bikes, firewood and lawn equipment. Directions specify cedar timber-framing, using simple lap joints; however, the design can be adapted for 2-by-4 construction.

The instructions and materials list come with a money-back guarantee. The cost is $25 plus $3 postage and handling. Contact Jean Stiles, 4 Albertine Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937. Phone: (212) 427-2317 or e-mail at Jeandave@aol.com.

Another resource concerning designs for barns, garages, stables and sheds is "Barns and Backbuildings," edited by Donald J. Berg. The book contains information on selecting a building site, blueprint advice, choosing the building for you and an extensive source list of building plans, design books, timber, frames, kits and hardware. It costs $9.95 plus $2 postage and handling. Contact Donald J. Berg, AIA, Box 698, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0698. Phone: (516) 766-5585.

Travel

Around the world with N.C. State

North Carolina State University is offering educational trips to more than 20 countries and regions to adult travelers during the fall 1998 season and in 1999. The trips are sponsored by the university's Educational Travel and General Interest Studies (ETGIS) office.

Destinations include Alaska, Antarctica, the Amazon, China, Costa Rica, England, Egypt, France, Galapagos Islands and Ecuador, Germany, Greece Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kenya, Morocco, Nepal, Nova Scotia, Peru, Scotland, South Africa and Turkey.

Prices range from $2,000 to $5,000 and include meals, first-class accommodations, airfare from the tours' departing cities and learning experiences at the destinations. The trips last from 10 days to three weeks, and many are offered three or four times during the year. Any interested party is eligible to travel with this program and an affiliation with NCSU is not required.

For more information, contact ETGIS, North Carolina State University, Box 7401, Raleigh, NC 27695; or phone (919) 513-1938; e-mail chip_futrell@ncsu.edu or visit the web site at www2.ncsu.edu/etgis/

A buyer's guide by Sharon O'Malley

Plain or fancy, carefully placed lights can transform even a tiny bathroom into one of your home's most beautiful spaces. Today's choices are functional as well as decorative.

Bright Spots

1. Sparklers

Four lead crystal shades sparkle beneath a bath bracket finished in gold and white wash and dressed up with pewter accents. Mount this 30-inch bar above a mirror for a reflective splash of light. #M1787-60 sells for around $129.95 at electric supply companies. Call Thomas Lighting at (800) 825-5844 to locate a dealer near you.

2. Matched set

For a touch of the traditional, pair Broan's Florentine cabinet with gold-trimmed lights. Both feature gold-leaf accents and traditional detailing for a sculptured look. They're sold separately—the light fixture costs around $112.50 and the cabinet, $186.50 at electric supply companies. Call (800) 558-1711 to find one close by.

3. Safe & sudsy

Most shower curtains block the light, leaving the bather scrubbing in the dark. The remedy? Cooper Lighting's wet light—it's safe for bathtub and shower areas. The recessed fixture can be installed in a ceiling or wall. It sells for around $160 at home centers and hardware stores. Call (847) 956-8400 for help finding one.

4. Picture perfect

Are you applying makeup under the unforgiving glare of a white light? Switch to Enrich, GE Lighting's color-enhancing bulb for the bath and bedroom. The bluish light contains an agent that filters out most yellows and greens while enriching reds, oranges and blues. The result is a richer color for highlighting artwork, putting on makeup or dressing. They're sold at discount chains or anywhere you find GE light bulbs for around $3. Call (800) 435-2677.

5. Two-tone

Lighting the face from two sides—with a long bulb mounted vertically—is considered an optimal way to apply makeup or shave. Robern offers an energy-efficient fluorescent light, minus the traditional flickers and hums of earlier versions of the bulb, for the bath. Mounted on a mirror or medicine cabinet, the bulb becomes part of a modern bathroom design. Shown, the MFL 1.5 fixture with T-8 bulb and chrome end caps mounted between two Robern turquoise F-series colored cabinets. Prices start at $379. Call (215) 826-9800 to order.

This guide is for informational purposes only and not intended as an endorsement by the North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Joyner's corner

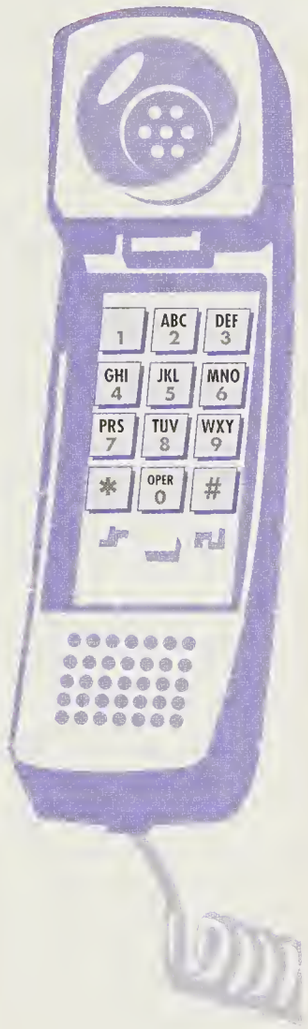
© by Charles Joyner

Phone-Etics

"United we stand, divided we fall." This is a quotation familiar to every school child. But do you know what stands when it is divided, but falls when it is united?

If you punch in the numbers below on your telephone pad, you will spell out the answer. Go figure!

2 7 8 3 7 5 2 3 3 3 7



Say Watt!

Begin at the T on the third row and end at M to spell out a six-word phrase of special significance to North Carolinians. Move from letter to adjacent letter in any direction: left, right, up, down, or diagonally. Each letter is used only once.

E	M	S	O
O	E	A	T
B	T	H	N
R	E	H	T
A	T	E	R

Southern Exposures

Alice Bradke of Hendersonville says her 5-year-old grandson came home from kindergarten and announced that he and his classmates were going to have a show-and-tell program "in the john" the next day. Alarmed, his mom checked with the teacher to find out what was coming off. She was relieved to learn that the program was to be held "in the gym."

"Yeah," the youngster said, upon being corrected. "One of those guys."

With justifiable pride a friend of mine traces an ancestor named Butler to George Washington's family tree. She passed on this bit of genealogical lore to a granddaughter who had to make an oral report about her family to her grammar school class.

On the day she gave her report, the little girl came home highly indignant, and almost in tears. None of my friends believed me," she said, "when I told them that one of my granddaddies was GeorgeWashington's butler."

Did you see the letter to Ann Landers from Ralph Millsaps of Statesville? Ann asked readers who have been married a long time to write and tell what has made their marriages last.

Ralph wrote, "My bride and I will both be 76 years old in August. Our formula is: dining out and dancing twice a week – without fail. She goes on Tuesday and I go on Thursday."

Answers on page

Percy P. Cassidy — Poles Apart

Beth DeVilling

Use the capital letters below to fill in the blanks above.

"CEHIKNOPRS TV" means
"u n s c r a m b l e i t"

Carolina compass

Chamber Music

August 2 & 9, Maggie Valley
Swannanoa Chamber Music
Festival at the Performing
Arts Center. (800) 334-9036.

Gospel Singing

August 5-8, Boone
At the High Country
Fairgrounds. Gates open at 5
p.m., performance begins at
7 p.m. $12 per night.
(800) 852-9506.

Christmas Trees

August 5-8, Asheville
National Christmas Tree
Association convention at
Asheville Civic Center.
(800) 562-8789.

Drama

August 7-9, Winston-Salem
Dramatic play entitled
"Contract," presented at the
Reynolda House, Museum of
American Art. Friday, 8 p.m.;
Saturday and Sunday, 5 p.m.
$10. (336) 725-5325.

Crafts Fair

August 7-8, Burnsville
42nd annual Mt. Mitchell
fair. Two-day event on
Burnsville town square fea-
tures 200 craftspeople, live
entertainment and variety of
food. Free. (800) 948-1632.

Concert

August 8, Sparta
Mike Casey and David
DiGiuseppe perform music
from Ireland, Britain and the
American South using
instruments such as wooden
flute, lap dulcimer, accor-
dion, mandolin and Irish cit-
tern. Sparta School
Auditorium. 8 p.m. Adults,
$8; children under 12, $6.
(336) 363-6008.

Hospice Fundraiser

August 8, Lexington
Hospice of Davidson County
and Kaleidoscope Kids pre-
sent the 2nd annual summer
festival at North Davidson
High School. Activities begin
at 5 p.m. with gourmet din-
ner and ends with raffle of
1998 Ford F-250 truck.
Dinner $50 per person, raffle
ticket $100 each.
(336) 248-6185.

Concert

August 8-9, Blowing Rock
Riders in the Sky perform at
Tweetsie Railroad. (828) 264-
9061. (800) 526-5740.

Shrimp Festival

August 8-9, Sneads Ferry
28th annual festival. Arts,
crafts, live entertainment,
petting zoo, pony rides, mili-
tary display, carnival and
concessions. $2 per day,
children under 12 free.

Farm Toy Show

August 8, Burlington
12th annual Tarheel show
and auction. More than 125
tables of tractors, imple-
ments, trucks and construc-
tion toys, many custom built
and highly detailed scale
replicas. Items for sale
including parts for customiz-
ing and repairs. No trains,
planes or baseball cards.
Auction Saturday evening, 6
p.m. Show hours 8:30 a.m.-
3 p.m. $3 for adults, under
12 free with paid adult.
Ramada Inn Convention
Center. (336) 584-9829;
(336) 584-7079 after 6 p.m.

Night Out

August 8, Statesville
National Night Out, spon-
sored by the Statesville
Police Department.
(704) 878-3442.

Smokey Bear Party

August 8, Pigsah Forest
Games, fire education, skits,
music, firefighting equip-
ment demonstrations, cake
and Smokey Bear. 11 a.m.-1
p.m. (828) 877-3130.

Drum & Bugle Corps

August 9, Charlotte
NightBEAT, the annual drum
and bugle corps competition,
returns to Charlotte's
Memorial Stadium on the
CPCC Campus. Reserved
ticket prices from $10-$50.
(704) 338-1331.

Watermelon Day

August 12, Raleigh
State Farmers Market.
(919) 733-7417.

Photo Album Workshop

August 13, Cornelius
Creative Memories
Workshop helps preserve
photographs through step-
by-step instructions for mak-
ing a keepsake album. Bring
8-10 photos to Jetton Park. 7
p.m. $13. (704) 895-2178.

Concert

August 14, Boone
Mountain Home Music pre-
sents Phil and Gaye Johnson.
The duo have appeared on
Nashville Network's "Fire on
the Mountain" program and
public radio's "Prairie Home
Companion." 8 p.m. at the
First Baptist Church.
(828) 264-8118.

Rummage Sale

August 14-15, Boone
The Humane Society of
Watauga County is holding
the area's largest annual rum-
mage sale at the National
Guard Armory. 8 a.m. to 5
p.m. (828) 297-4294.

Art

August 15, Blowing Rock
Art in the Park at the
American Legion Fairground.
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
(800) 295-7851.

Square Dance

August 15, Denton
Monthly celebration of tradi-
tional music and dances.
Door prizes and concessions.
Dance from 7-10:30 p.m.
$4, children under 12 free
with an adult.
(336) 475-9397.

Camera Clinic

August 15-16, Linville
48th annual clinic features a
weekend for photographers
and includes lectures cover-
ing news photography. Free.
(800) 4MT-PEAK;
(828) 733-4337

Concert Series

August 15, 22, 29,
Winston Salem
Reynolda House, Museum
of Art, presents the Foothills
Music Festival. Informal
performance August 23.
(336) 725-5325.

Nature Workshop

August 16, Winston-Salem
At the Reynolda House,
Museum of Art, for elemen-
tary school children older,
accompanied by adult. $5.
(336) 725-5325.

Museum Celebration

August 16, Boone
Appalachian Cultural
Museum celebrates its 9th
anniversary with music, sto-
rytelling and door prizes.
Free. (828) 262-3117.

Miniature Horse Racing

August 18, Taylorsville
Blue Ridge Miniature Harness Club races at Bryant Farm. Bring lawn chairs. 6 p.m. Free. (828) 632-3043.

"Oklahoma!"

August 19-29, Snow Camp
One of America's favorite musicals. 8:30 p.m. Adults, $10; children under 12, $5; seniors (60 & over), $8. (336) 376-6948.

Pasta Festival

August 21, Maggie Valley
4th Annual Pasta Feed. (800) 334-9036.

Doc Watson Concert

August 22, Sparta
The legendary Doc Watson and his grandson, Richard, will perform blues, gospel and traditional mountain ballads. Sparta School Auditorium. 8 p.m. Adults, $8; children under 12, $6. (336) 363-6008.

Quilt Show

August 21-22, Canton
8th Annual Cruso Quilt Show features almost 100 years of quilting skills, displaying quilts from the late 1800s to the present, made from feed sacks, calico, muslin, wool, silk and stain. More than 60 craftsmen and artists from the local mountain. (828) 235-8238; (828) 648-5633.

Folk Festival

August 22, Burnsville
Music in the Mountains Folk Festival, featuring music, clogging and food. Patience Park Campground. (704) 682-7215, (800) 948-1632.

Herb Festival

August 22, Durham
At Duke Homestead. Displays of herb uses, plant and craft sales, workshops, children's games and refreshments. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (919) 477-5498.

Race

August 22, Maggie Valley
20th Annual Maggie Valley Moonlight Race. (800) 334-9036.

Jazz Festival

August 26 to 29, Maggie Valley
Larry's 8th Annual Jazz Festival, at Saratoga's Café. (800) 334-9036.

Printing Demonstration

August 27, Hickory
A demonstration of fine art printing by Brian Yates at the Catawba Valley Visual Art League meeting in the Hickory Museum of Art Education Wing at 7 p.m. free. (704) 328-8183.

5K Run

August 29, Sherrill's Ford
Lions March 5K for Camp Dogwood at camp's campus adjacent-Lake Norman. Register by August 21, $15. Late fee $18. Race at 8:30 a.m. (704) 478-2135; (800) 662-7401.

Cotton Field Day

September 2, Rocky Mount
1998 N.C. Cotton Field Day and Exhibition at the Upper Coastal Plain Research Station. Field day begins at 12:30 p.m. and features on-farm tests and demonstrations, agency exhibits and commercial displays. (919) 779-3304.

Concert

September 5, Sparta
The Old South Dixieland Band will preform traditional jazz and Dixieland music. Sparta School Auditorium. 8 p.m. Adults, $8; children under 12, $6. (336) 363-6008.

Arts & Crafts

September 4-6, Highlands
5th annual show at the Sassafras Gap Campground. Live entertainment, food. $1, children under 12 free. (704) 526-3181.

On-Going

Outdoor Drama

Through August 15, Snow Camp
"The Sword of Peace," a historical drama portraying the struggles the peaceful Quakers must face during the Revolutionary War. "Pathway to Freedom," tells of events involved in the secret transfer of escaped slaves from North Carolina to Ohio during the turbulent 1800s. Wednesday through Saturday on alternate nights at 8:30 p.m. Adults, $10; children under 12, $5; seniors (60 & over), $8. (336) 376-6948.

Children's Play

Through August 15, Snow Camp
"My Name is Rumpelstiltskin." Saturdays, 10 a.m. $4. (336) 376-6948.

Outdoor Drama

Through August 22, Cherokee
Cherokee outdoor drama, "Unto These Hills," opens for 49th summer season. The play is the story of the coming of the white man to Cherokee country, covering the years 1540 to the late 1830s. Audiences leave Mountainside Theatre much more knowledgeable of the Cherokee people, their history and their struggles in a non-Indian world. (828) 497-2111.

Indian Village

Through October 25, Cherokee
The Oconaluftee Indian Village open for its 46th season of presenting a full-size living replica of an early 18th century Cherokee community. Open daily 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (704) 497-2111.

Photography Exhibit

Through October 18, Raleigh
The exhibit Closing: The Life and Death of an American Factory, by photographer Bill Bamberger, captures the closing of the 111-year-old White Furniture Co., in Mebane. North Carolina Museum of Art. Free. (919) 839-6262.

Granville County Museum

Through winter 1998, Oxford
Now showing "Granville County Gold: History of Tobacco," featuring photos, tools and memorabilia explaining the importance of tobacco to the county's history. (919) 693-9706.

China—Ancient Arts and Sciences

Through September 7, Charlotte
Traveling exhibition of Ancient China features terra cota soldiers, early warfare objects, navigation instruments, looms, sculpture, silk paintings and 13 artisans demonstrating the ancient skills of Chinese art, including paper making, egg painting and porcelain carving. (704) 372-6261.

Butterflies

Through Labor Day, Durham
Summer Wings Seasonal Butterfly House offers a combination of lush flower blossoms, fresh water and hundreds of butterflies from all five butterfly families in open flight. $1 in addition to general admission of $5.50 for adults, $3.50 for children 3 to 12 and seniors, and free for ages 2 and under to Museum of Life and Science. (919) 220-5429.

Deadlines:
Oct. . . . .Aug. 25
Nov. . . . .Sept. 25
Dec. . . . .Oct. 26

Send notices to:
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Art Wanted

Will pay $50
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Carolina Country is looking for art to illustrate the October 1998 magazine's features on electric cooperatives.

October is Cooperative Month throughout the U.S.

IF YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER OR GRANDCHILD CAN DRAW OR PAINT SOMETHING IN COLOR ABOUT YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, SEND IT TO US BY AUGUST 15.

We will pay $50 for each one we publish in the magazine.

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It's true! Vinegar expert, Emily Thacker says in her new book that vinegar safely helps speed up metabolism to burn unwanted calories, pounds and ultimately inches from your problem areas.

...And if you struggle to keep your weight down, the good news is you can start today by washing away years of ugly unwanted fat buildup.

After years of research, the just published and only "Emily's Vinegar Diet" weight loss system is now available to help you melt pounds and excess inches.

This is not a traditional diet plan. According to Emily, overweight people can now break away from constant "yo-yo" dieting.

And you will be amazed how well this program is designed to work.

Best of all you don't need to count calories, no strenuous exercises (just simple muscle toning), no dieting or ingesting harmful diet pills.

True Stories From Vinegar Dieters:*

► **LOST 30 POUNDS!** "I dropped 30 pounds so fast it scared me!" -- J.G. of IL

► **IT WORKS!** "Vinegar... with each meal will help you lose weight." -- B.N. of MN

► **LOST 97 POUNDS!** "I went down to 183 from 280... I wouldn't trade... for all the money in this entire country." -- V.S. of MS

► **THINNER WAIST IN TWO WEEKS!** "Already lost 1 1/2 inches in my waist in only one and a half weeks. -- Z.L. of FL

**These are actual testimonials from vinegar users around the country. They wrote in freely and did not profit from their endorsement. Testimonials are atypical, your weight loss may be more or less.*

It's easy, safe, convenient and you don't have to starve yourself thin.

The secret? Food proportion, vinegar and thermogenesis - (process of your body burning fat to create energy). And Emily states, "it works!"

Doctors agree. Strict dieting does not work and is harmful to your body...

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Eating, speeding up your metabolic rate and digesting fat cells is the only way to be as thin and as healthy as you want to be.

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- *NO* Dieting!
- *NO* Calorie Counting !
- *NO* More Unwanted Flab!

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- "I'm not as-attractive as I know I could be." -or-
- "I have nothing that fits me comfortably"

Well, you'll learn how a few daily "fat burning" vinegar cocktails, combined with your three nutritiously hearty meals a day (including desserts!) can effectively help you say "good-bye" to fat and dieting forever.

It's true! You'll look better, feel better have unbelievable energy.

Imagine the possibilities! The rewards of weight loss are endless.

You'll also know how vinegar can aid in lowering cholesterol, digest tough-to-eat foods, boost immune system, restore age-wasted muscles and more.

Cancer? Diabetes? High Blood pressure? Arthritis? Learn what foods you'll enjoy to help fight these diseases.

Always Tired? Find out how you'll gain strength, energy and vigor, to banish fatigue.

Learn to make countless low fat meals to help you enjoy weight loss.

Water? Food Color? It's no joke. New research uncovers the importance of these for weight reduction and disease prevention.

In other words, you'll almost effortlessly be healthier, thinner and potentially live longer.

Don't wait! Why not send for Emily's Vinegar Diet Book today?

To receive and try your complete "Vinegar Diet" for 3 months without risk simply write "Vinegar Diet" along with your name and address on a plain piece of paper. Mail it along with your remittance of only $19.95 plus $2 shipping and handling payable to: The Vinegar Diet, Dept. FD3271 718 - 12th Street N.W., Box 24500 Canton, Ohio 44701.

Or charge your VISA/MasterCard by including your card number, expiration date and signature.

For faster service on VISA/MasterCard call TOLL FREE 1-800-772-7285 Ext. FD3271.

SAVE $13.90 simply for ordering a copy as a gift for your friend. That's 2 diet plans for $30 postpaid.

FREE: Order in the next 15 days, and receive a free copy of the *"Honey & Vinegar for Weight Loss."* Yours to keep simply for previewing the book.

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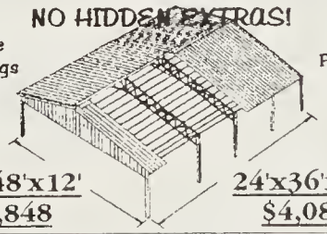

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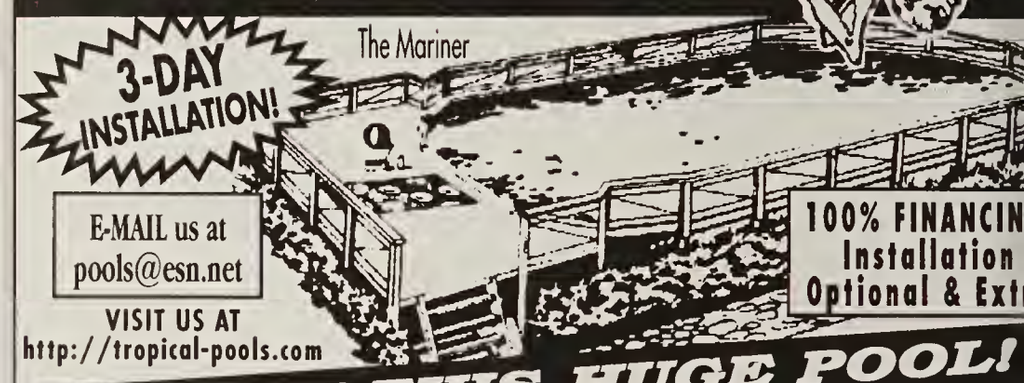

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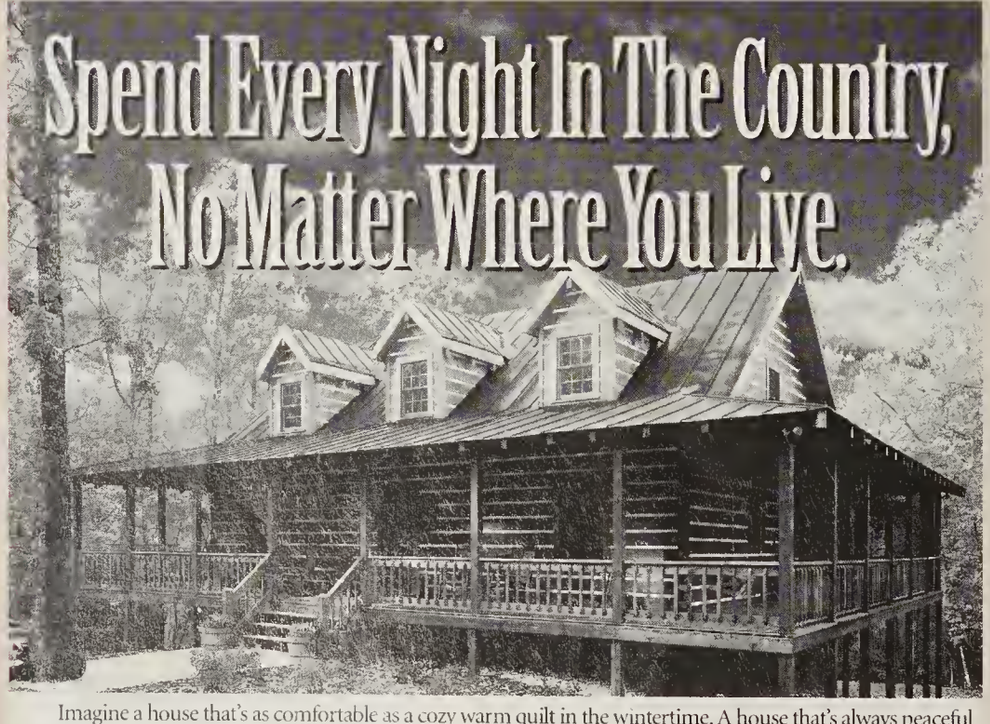

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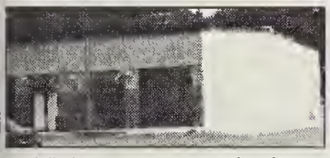

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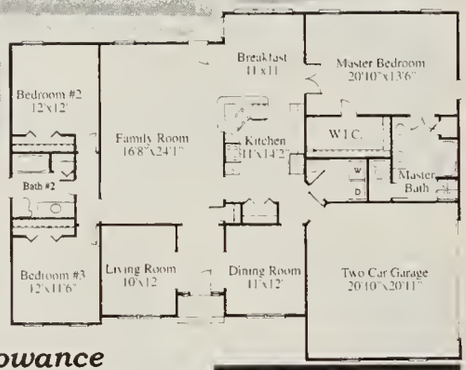

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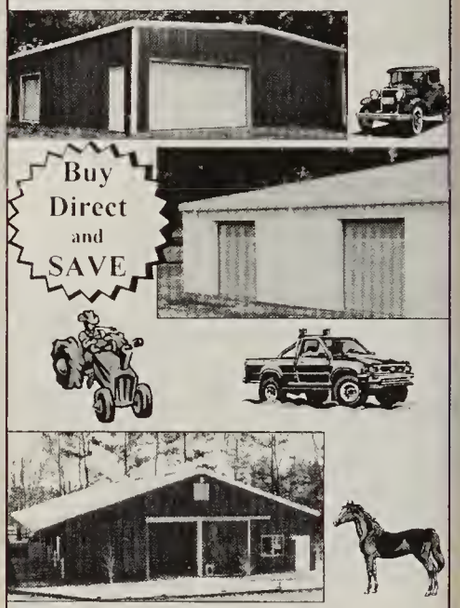

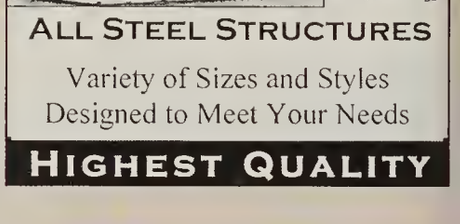

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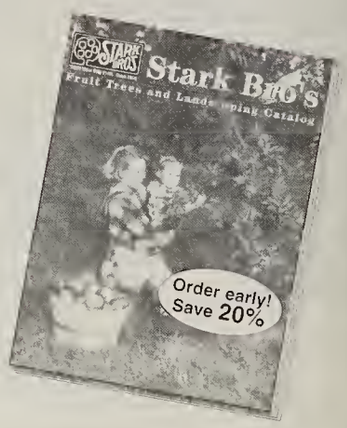

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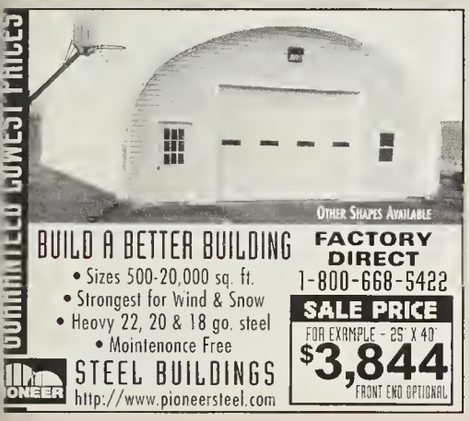

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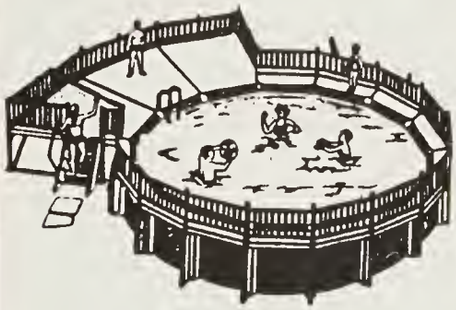

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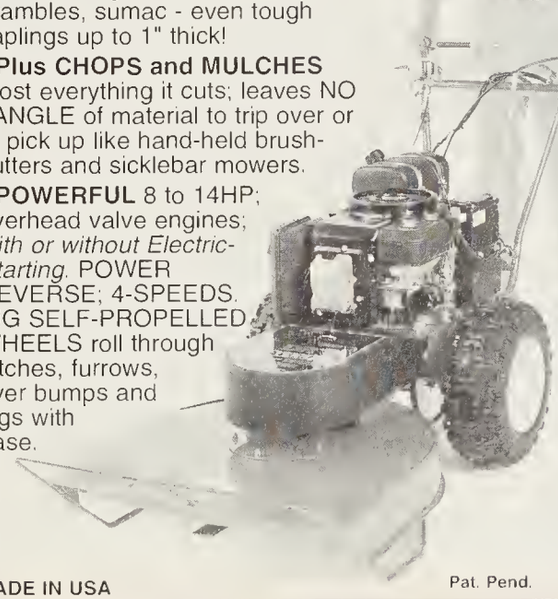

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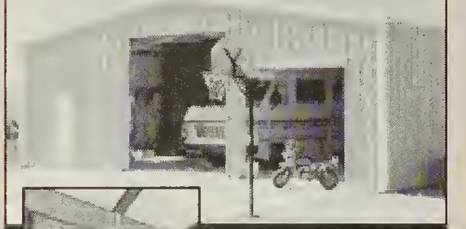

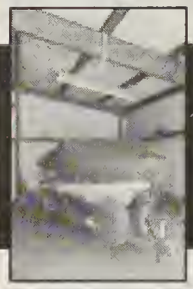

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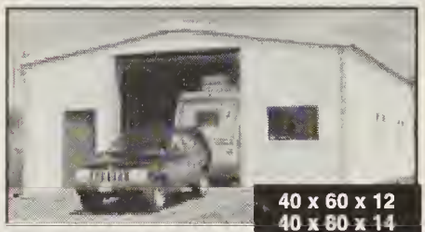

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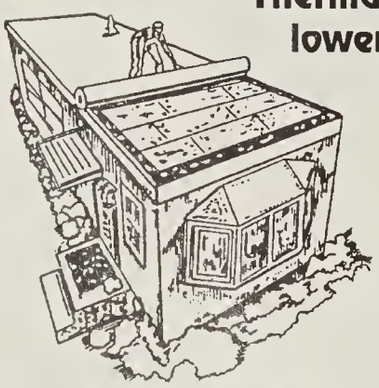

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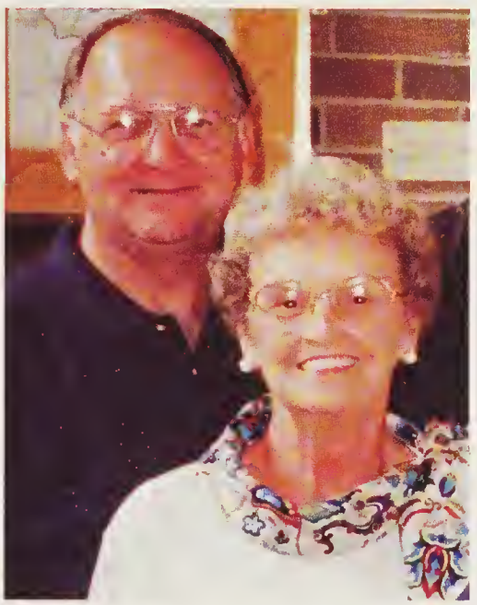
In her sneak preview, Monica Russell gives retirement "two thumbs up"

So far, she's had only a "sneak preview" but she's already giving it two thumbs up with as much gusto as Siskel and Ebert ever mustered for the latest box office blockbuster.

The critic in this case is Monica Russell, who officially retired in January as Carolina Country's advertising/business manager but continued to handle magazine duties on a part time basis through mid-July. The work has kept her busy only a couple of days a week while she also enjoyed sampling the lifestyle of a new retiree. This preview of retirement living drew her enthusiastic thumbs-up rating almost as soon as she started the new routine.



Owen and Monica

"It's wonderful!" she'd say, grinning as she described the sense of freedom it brings. After a lifetime of giving priority to family and her employers, she was finding great satisfaction in finally setting her own schedule. She'd often arrive at the office bubbling over with tales of her latest leisure time adventures, many of which involve the families of her three adult children. Of course, the bubbling would immediately shift into warp speed when she'd describe her encounters with her four granddaughters, who're all under age 7. She's been thoroughly honing her granny-as-playmate skills and having a ball doing it.

"Those girls are precious, but they can really wear me out!" she said, referring to a recent stint as a weekend babysitter. "I just can't keep up the pace with them the way I did when my kids were little."

Monica has also found time to tackle some clean-up/fix-up projects at home, to seek out sales bargains at department stores when most shoppers are at work and to plan some new endeavors, including her first engagement as a Board of Elections precinct worker.

She's also re-connecting with members of her extended family — especially those she rarely sees. She regularly plays host to relatives when they make their way to Raleigh but now also hits the road occasionally for turnabout visits where she can relax and enjoy their hospitality.

Watching Monica prepare for this transition, I've been filled with thoroughly mixed feelings. I'm still coping with that because as I write this column, Monica is still one of us — at least on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We have not yet gone our separate ways. When we do, it will mark the end of a professional relationship that began when she joined the magazine staff almost 14 years ago. She'd had no previous experience with electric utilities, publications, cooperative organizations or trade associations. Yet, when she was thrown into the middle of all that as Carolina Country's administrative assistant, she drew on her varied skills and warm personality to make herself right at home.

Since then, our relationship has evolved as we've coped with boring routines and occasional crises, several reorganizations and even more frequent workspace relocations. In recent years, she has taken on a broader role as the magazine's business manager and I've taken on new duties that have curtailed my involvement with Carolina Country.

Fortunately, this hasn't disturbed our relationship, which has developed into a rich and rewarding friendship.

Meanwhile, Monica has endured a series of personal struggles, including the loss of her husband Roger in 1995, after a long bout with cancer. She has also suffered through her own series of health problems, which are now under control.

These stresses were difficult enough on their own but they have also forced her to repeatedly adjust her vision of her retirement years. First, she had to accept the prospect of facing them without her helpmate of 36 years, and later she came to dread them because of the physical limitations they might bring.

She'll never stop missing Roger, of course, but she can now look forward to enjoying some retirement pursuits in good health. She has reason to rejoice about that.

As for me and the rest of Monica's co-workers, we can share her excitement amid the farewell celebrations. Yet, once she has moved on, we'll confront our own set of stresses, having lost a valuable office ally, a cordial coffee-break buddy, a colleague who can relate to the rewards and woes of this particular workplace.

If we follow the example she's set through her various trials, we'll put aside the pain of our loss and smile as we bid her, "Godspeed."

Proven pre-retirement advice

Drawing on the letters that had been submitted to the "Golden Years" newspaper column over the past 50 years, Kent Collins identified four recurring themes about retirement living:

- Strengthen your relationship with your truest companion. The final third of life is far more rewarding if it can be shared. "And so, whatever you can do early-on to nurture a true companion will pay handsomely in old age."
- Creativity should not stop in old age, "lest life go stale." Retirees who push themselves to be creative can "earn their own respect
- Expand your network of friends and colleagues. This is a cardinal rule in the world of business but many people fail to follow it after they retire.
- Become an advocate of others. Volunteer on behalf of your favorite cause.

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Hank's gardening guide

by Hank Smith

If the 24th of August is fair and clear, Then hope for a prosperous Autumn that year.

John Ray, English Proverb, 1670

Summer's an excellent time to study the yard in respect to need and location of shade trees. These are valuable parts of landscape design. Even in the heat of summer, container-grown plants may be introduced to the landscape.

Shrub cuttings

Cuttings of the following shrubs can be rooted at this time: abelia, azalea, hydrangea, wax ligustrum and Pfitzer juniper. Use tip growth, 4 to 6 inches long. Cut at a slant, just beneath a joint. Leave three or four leaves on each cutting. Plant 3 to 4 inches deep in moist sand and under partial shade. Keep moist, but not water logged. Treat with powdered root-inducing hormone to hasten rooting.

Winter everlastings

Strawflowers, statice, globe amaranth and cockscomb to be dried for use indoors in floral designs should be cut now. Tie in bundles, place in paper bags, then hang in a dry place to "cure." Supplement dried flowers with dried blooms of ornamental grasses (such as pampas or maiden grasses), pine cones, native dock and twigs of colorful bark.

Mulching with aluminum foil

Experimental tests have shown that when aluminum foil is used as mulch, plant damage due to aphids and other flying insects is greatly reduced, resulting in stronger and healthier plants. The key to this protection from aphids is exposure of foil to the sun. In addition, foil reflects the sun's rays, causing plants to mature earlier. As maturing foliage shades the foil, it will lose its repellent quality. Thus, foil should be large enough to extend outward from plants to leave most of its area unshaded.

Leaf lettuce

Leaf lettuce can be planted now for the fall garden. When soil is 80 degrees or warmer, seeds may not germinate, so give them a bit of shade. An old window screen is ideal. Sow seed on top of prepared soil and pat them lightly into the surface. Do not bury the seeds. Use bricks to support corners of the screen over the seeded bed. If more shade is needed, sprinkle a bit of pine needles or straw on top of the screen.

Winter's indoor flowers

Coleus, geraniums, begonias and impatiens should be rooted now for indoor use this winter. Sturdy young specimens will look better in windowsills or in the indoor garden collection than will overgrown, leggy, stock plants. Root cuttings in moist builder's sand in a shady location. As caladium leaves droop and stems become floppy, dig up tubers with soil attached and store in trays indoors.

Strawberries

This fruit has become increasingly popular for use in border plantings, pyramids, ground covers and other forms of decorative plantings. To be in peak condition for developing bloom buds for next year's berry crop, weed-thin-feed-water plants. By mid-September, the number of leaves on a plant has a direct bearing on the number of buds that will become established as days get shorter and cooler. If immature buds are not set in the fall, there'll be no blooms next spring. Thin plants 6 to 8 inches each way between plants. Fertilize with about one pound of 8-8-8 fertilizer or one-half pound nitrate or soda per 100 square feet of bed area. These shallow-rooted plants need to be well watered after being fertilized. For most soil types, a good soaking once a week should suffice.

Satsuki azaleas

In making plans for fall-winter-spring landscape plantings, give thought to the use of Satsuki azaleas, as facing-down shrubs at the base of higher growing Indicas and Kurumes. Such groupings make effective shrubbery borders. Satsukis flower in summer, extending the azalea season. They bear pink and white blooms on the same plant. Some blooms have markings of both white and pink. Satsukis are low-growing, providing a good base step for a stair-step grouping of azaleas. In summer they form a good background for colorful annuals and/or perennials. They are compact in growth form. Satsukis root easily between June and the end of August.

Planting bulbs

Now's the time to plant bulbs of Madonna lilies, lycoris, Mertensias, and Guernsey lilies. Set Regal lilies when available. Dig-divide-replant daylilies and bearded iris. By doing so now, transplants will have time to become well-established before cold weather. Plant Madonna lilies. Easter lilies planted outdoors after Easter usually rebloom in a few months. After flowering, cut back to about two inches above soil line. In mild winters they will live over. When severe cold is forecast, mulch heavily. To extend life of flowers, emasculate blooms by removing yellow pollen when flower bud opens.

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3 cups peach pulp
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2 quarts milk
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 pint whipping cream
2 cups sugar
1/4 teaspoon almond flavoring
4 eggs, slightly beaten

To the peach pulp add the lemon juice and 1 cup of the sugar—all to stand 1 hour. Add the other cup of sugar and salt to the beaten eggs, then blend in half of the milk. Cook this sugar, egg, and milk mixture over boiling water to make a thick custard. Cool. Add the remainder of milk, the cream that has been partially whipped, the flavoring, and sweetened peach pulp. Place in ice cream maker and freeze using 1 part salt to 6 parts ice. (Electric ice makers freeze the cream faster and cut-off when it's done.) Makes 1 gallon.

Easy Fresh Peach Pie

9-inch unbaked pastry crust
1 cup sugar
1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
6 medium-size fresh peaches, quartered
3 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons butter

Mix sugar, flour, cinnamon. Sprinkle half of mixture over unbaked crust. Arrange peaches in single layer over mixture. Dot with butter. Bake at 400 degrees about 1 hour, or until juices thicken and crust is light brown.

Peach Primer

WHEN SELECTING, look for peaches with a creamy to gold undercolor that best indicates ripeness. The amount of red blush on fruit depends on the variety and is not always a sign of ripeness. Two other indicators of ripeness are a well-defined crease and a good fragrance. Select fruit that has begun to soften for immediate use. Firm ripe fruit can be held a few days at room temperature and ripened further.

WHEN STORING, peaches should be held at 32-35 degrees F and high humidity. Fully ripened peaches should be refrigerated immediately and kept there until ready for consumption. Sound and mature but not overripe peaches can be expected to hold 1-2 weeks at 32-35 degrees F with little adverse effect. Peaches deteriorate rapidly when stored for periods longer than this.

WHEN RIPENING mature peaches, a room temperature of 65-70 degrees F is best. There is no gain in sugar content once a peach is picked from a tree. Its ripening process consists primarily of softening, development of juiciness, and development of flavor.

NUTRITIONAL VALUE: A medium size fresh peach is full of nutrients and contains only 38 calories. Fresh peaches are an excellent source of vitamin A and contain some calcium which is not common in fruit. Peaches also contain iron and are low in sodium.

WHEN MEASURING

1 pound of fresh peaches
= 3-4 medium sized peaches
= 2 cups sliced peaches
= 1-1/2 cups puree

1 bushel of fresh peaches will yield 18-24 quarts of canned peaches

Thanks to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and its Tarheel Kitchen. For a free peach brochure with recipes and a map of roadside stands, contact NC Peach Growers Society, c/o Division of Marketing, NCDOA, P.O. Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27647. Phone: (919) 733-7136, ext. 236. Fax: (919) 733-0999 (refer to peach brochure, write legibly, include your phone number).

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Highly prized for its clouds of sunny, daisy-like blooms and its fast-growing, easy care nature. Black-eyed Susan is the perfect companion to our other Daisy varieties. The bright golden flowers are a wonderful addition to any cut-flower bouquet! Just plant in well-drained soil and a sunny or partly shady spot. Grows 2-3' tall and blooms profusely starting in mid-summer. **#00349 3/$3.98**

Mixed Daffodils

This money-saving assortment brings you a glorious mix of yellows, whites and bicolors. Plant Daffodils on hillsides, under trees and in rock gardens – anywhere you need a dash of early spring color. Best of all, hardy Daffodils return every year without lifting and replanting! 10-12cm. **#06601 10/$2.98**

Lavender Mountain Lily

This popular variety is great for borders, rock gardens and beds. Lavender Mountain Lily multiplies every year, giving you more and more beautiful lavender-violet blooms each season! 3+cm. Pay for 20 and get 40. **#08722 20/$2.98**

Easter Bonnet Daffodils

Easter Bonnet will add spice to your garden with its unusual cream and pink color blooms. Enjoy it among other spring-flowering bulbs or plant several in a naturalized setting. Easter Bonnet is incredibly fragrant, too, so it's an excellent choice for indoor bouquets. 12-14cm. **#08599 3/$4.98**

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Enjoy a rainbow of spring color with this gorgeous perennial groundcover. Creeping Phlox blankets your landscape with dense, evergreen foliage and bright red, pink, white or lavender blooms. Get 24 plants for the price of 12 when you order now. 1-year-old plants. **#02717 12/$4.98**

Purple Coneflower

Colorful butterflies love these long-blooming daisy-like flowers with their purple petals and deep maroon centers. Purple Coneflower is easy to grow, fighting off heat and drought. Just plant in any sunny, well-drained spot and watch it shoot up 2-3' tall with little care. **#08912 3/$3.98**

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Angel-like Tulip

Why settle for ordinary tulips when you can grow these heavenly pink beauties so easily! As delicate and lovely as angels' wings, Angel-like Tulips will look simply divine in your garden and cut-flower bouquets. Every year, in mid-spring, they'll burst into bloom on sturdy 16" stems. 10-11cm. **#36558 5/$3.98**

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Canterbury Bells

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Why settle for ordinary tulips when you can grow these dark dusky beauties so easily! As deep and mysterious as a midnight sky, Queen of the Night Tulips will reign supreme in your garden and cut-flower bouquets. Every year, in mid-spring, they'll burst into bloom on sturdy 27" stems. **#08540 5/$3.98**

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